Pueblo Colorado May 26/94

My dear Mother

You will I know be thinking long to hear from me. and I have various things to tell you. I had a real nice little visit out at Mr Jenkins, and then went on to Dayton, Ohio: where I spent a day investigating the photo-engraving art. I wrote from there to Dr. Smith the result of my investigations, and, a few days ago, I read a letter from him saying the Board had made a grant of $400 oo to enable me to learn the art & buy an outfit of apparatus & material to start the picture-making right away when I get to Peking. This is the outcome of my visit to Boston — and I went there at their invitation and all this has come about naturally and without any urging on my part. God is leading me and I do not think any one in the family, or out of it,

can know for me what I ought to do. I inquired in Phila. in New York and in Chicago; and am satisfied that Dayton is the best place to learn the picture making. There is a man there who makes a business of teaching it & Charges $50.00.

I expect to leave here Monday June 4th & go back to Chicago & from there to Dayton. The United Brethren have quite a large publishing house in Dayton & I called to see them & they very cordially offered to allow me to go in there & learn bookbinding &c. So I shall stay in Dayton until ready to start China ward - It is a beautiful town.

I remained in Chicago a few days doing some investigating and then came on here to see Miss Sellers. and she is going with me to China. I have been here ten days & it is only now decided We have not been hasty. It is not a business matter. She owns a pleasant home here which is worth several thousand dollars. She is able to work. She has lately refused a good position to teach & is now declining another offer in a college in Washington. She is just

now passing the critical period of her life & has also had La Grippe, but during the last twelve years she has done a great deal of hard work — very hard some of it. She is not an invalid.

She has gone through trial & suffering and she is a different woman from the one you saw — more gentle. more winning. more of Christ in her heart & face. — Not any older looking than I expected — just a little gray mixing in her dark hair. She has all her life been beset by admirers & I could hardly believe what I now know to be true. that she has never loved any other man — And not until she was sure that she loved me would she consent to go. You all know that I loved Jennie & that I made her happy — I always knew that I did not love her as she loved me — I thought I was not capable of any more love. but I now know what love is, as I never knew before. She is in every way my equal, in some ways superior. She is specially strong where I need support. The thought of a young. strong woman for my wife had not at any time any

attractiveness to me. A younger woman would make greater demands upon my time & strength & more than children there would be care & responsibility — The thought of going with this woman as my companion to that work in China: one in aim, in sympathy, and accord to spend our remaining years there in work for the Master has attractiveness. It is a very lovely picture. It gives me great peace & confidence & courage. And I feel just as sure that God is in it as that He has been in everything else which has come to me in all the wonderful year which is just behind me.

Miss Sellars has a brother & other friends in Mo. and she may possibly go that far East. I am not certain. She does not expect to do much visiting as the time is short and, knowing the need in Peking, she says she will not allow herself to be the cause of any delay. When I was in Boston Dr. Smith told me a party of half a dozen of their own missionaries had already planned to sail from Vancouver August 27th thus intimating that they would be pleased to have me go then. So that is our plan

Please write to me then so I can [illegible]
send to her from you - just direct to
Dayton Ohio + I shall get it.
With love to all as ever your son
John

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that is to leave VanCouver Aug 27th
Of course the wedding will not be
till after I leave Dayton. Just when
it will be or where I do not know.
Of course it is not probable that you
will live to see us return from China.
and I very much wish you could see
+ know Miss Sellers. I am sure
you would love + honor her + give us a mothers
blessing feeling that I have done wisely.
She has different times expressed her wish
that she could see you.
These plans will bring me to make my
visit at Willie's early in August. I
presume you will surely be there by that
time please let Horace + Jennie +
the others read this. They are equally interested
+ I cannot say in any better way than this.
what I would like to say to them.
Some years ago, after Miss Sellers had

regained her health The Philadelphia ladies wanted to send her to South America as a missionary but the care of her mother had fallen upon her and she could not go. She has always wanted to be in the work in China.

The day I read the first letter from Miss S giving me any encouragement I went with Maggie Ralston out to that old grave yard. I told her of it & a little about Miss S and she said she was really glad to know of my doing it.

Even Annie McJunkin said she was sorry to see me go alone. And while I did not tell her I drew her out to day she would not blame me a bit if I got married & that I ought to have a wife. When I returned from Phila Florence handed me Horace's letter & with it a letter from Miss Sellers. When I returned a week later from Boston Florence handed me Jennies letter & with it one also from Miss Sellers. There are so many things I could write which would interest you but I must stop. I shall be in Dayton June 7th or 8th